

From: Hinds, Ward  
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2002 12:59 PM  
To: Tom Locke; Sloma, Don R; McLaughlin, Craig D  
Subject: Isolation rules

Tom et al,

Just a few comments on the current draft of the Isolation and Quarantine rules.

WAC 246-100-011(11). I would change the wording to say "...in a manner to prevent transmission of the infectious agent to humans." rather than "...human transmission of the infectious agent". We are trying to control more than human transmission.

WAC 246-100-011(16) and (24). I am still having trouble distinguishing isolation from quarantine in your definitions. What is the difference between "suspected to be contaminated" (isolation definition) and "suspected to be exposed to a contaminant" (quarantine definition)?? The quarantine definition speaks to separation of "well" persons, whereas the isolation definition doesn't specify well or ill persons. Is the isolation definition confined to ill persons? I looked in my "Dictionary of Epidemiology"(John Last) and found the following:

Isolation: Separation, for the period of communicability, of infected persons or animals from others in such places and under such conditions as to prevent or limit the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent from those infected to those who are susceptible or who may spread the agent to others.

Quarantine: The limitation of freedom of movement of such well persons or domestic animals as have been exposed to a communicable disease, for a period of time not longer than the longest usual incubation period of the disease, in such manner as to prevent effective contact with those not so exposed.

Perhaps these are helpful.

I also note that there are some places in the rules where you say "isolation and quarantine" and others where you say "isolation or quarantine". Perhaps this is intentional, but I don't see the rationale for the difference. I would think "or" should always be used, since isolation and quarantine are different and both would not be employed for the same persons at the same time.

WAC246-100-040(3)(c). I suggest changing "...in the isolated or quarantined premises", to "the premises where isolation or quarantine has been imposed", or some such change. I don't think premises can be isolated, only persons.

246-100-040(4)(f). Should the court order also specify the premises where isolation or quarantine will take place? Same question for 246-100-040(5)((g).

246-100-050(1)(b) and (c). One of these refers to "premises" and the other to "facility".

246-100-050(1)(c). I would add to this, "....personal protective equipment and/or vaccination as appropriate."

Hope this is more helpful than not.

Ward

M. Ward Hinds, MD, MPH  
Health Officer  
Snohomish Health District  
3020 Rucker Ave.  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-339-5210  
FAX 425-339-5216  
whinds@shd.snohomish.wa.gov